



AMMANFORD  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR 1969

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AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

AMMANFORD,

SEPTEMBER, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman and Members,

I submit my report on the Environmental Health of the Ammanford Urban District for the year 1969.

After many years service Dr. Herbert retired in July, and is very much missed by the inhabitants of Ammanford.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Chief Officers of this Council, together with their Staffs and to Mr. Walter Davies for all the assistance and advice I received on taking up my appointment, and for the help and support they continue to give in the work of the Health Department.

Your obedient Servant,

M. STEANE.

Medical Officer of Health.

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AMMANFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH COMMITTEE

T. C. Bevan J.P. (Chairman)

Rev. Ronald Walters B.A. (Chairman of the Council)

B. G. Williams (Vice-Chairman of the Council)

D. H. Cooke

E. E. Williams

Dr. D. H. Davies, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.C.H.

J. D. Davies

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Medical Officer of Health:

DR. GLADYS M. HERBERT, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.  
Retired July, 15th 1969.

DR. MARGARET STEANE, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.  
Commenced September, 1st 1969.

Public Health Inspector:

MR. W. DAVIES, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistant:

MISS ANDREA JONES.

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GENERAL INFORMATION

Area of District of Ammanford ... ..	944 acres
Estimated mid-year Population in 1969 - Ammanford	5,940
- Carmarthenshire	163,600
- England and Wales	48,826,800
Number of persons per acre in Ammanford ... ..	6.29
Number of Council Houses ... ..	478
Number of Private Dwellings ... ..	1,549
Number of Dwellings for the Elderly ... ..	12

Number of Dwellings completed during 1969

(a) By the Council ... ..	14
(b) By Private Builders ... ..	9

Rateable Value ... ..	£197,286
Net product of a penny rate ... ..	£728

Number of burial grounds in Ammanford ... ..	6
The Council controlled cemetery is situated outside the boundary	

POPULATION

The population of Ammanford continues its slow decline over 6 years. There has been a loss of 310 persons.

Below is a table showing the population figures and deaths for the years 1964 - 1969 inclusive:-

YEAR	NUMBER OF PERSONS (Estimated)	DEATHS	BIRTHS
1964	6,250	89	82
1965	6,200	110	75
1966	6,150	92	82
1967	6,190	94	60
1968	6,010	84	76
1969	5,940	83	73





VITAL AND MORTAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

The number of births registered in 1969 was 73 compared with 76 registered in the previous year.

All the births took place in Hospital.

		Male	Female	Total	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Live Births	Legitimate	33	39	72	2,029	730,500
	Illegitimate		1	1	104	67,042
	Total	33	40	73	2,133	797,542
Still Births	Legitimate	0	1	1	29	9,555
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1,107
	Total	0	1	1	31	10,662
Total Live and Still Births	Legitimate	33	40	73	2,058	740,055
	Illegitimate	0	1	1	106	68,149
	Total	33	41	74	2,164	808,204

1.35% of births in Ammanford were illegitimate compared with 4.89% in Carmarthenshire and 8.4% in England and Wales.

LIVE BIRTH RATE ETC.

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Live Births per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	12.3	13.0	16.3
Area comparability factor	1.21	1.09	1.00
Local adjusted rate	14.9	17.2	16.3
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	0.91	0.87	1.00
Illegitimate live births as a percentage of all live births	.1	5	8

STILL BIRTH RATE

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Still Births per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	14	14	13



DEATHS OF INFANTS

Age		Male	Female	Total	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Under 1 year	Legitimate	2	0	2	37	12,694
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1,703
	Total	2	0	2	39	14,397
Under 4 weeks	Legitimate	1	0	1	26	8,494
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	1,109
	Total	1	0	1	28	9,603
Under 1 week	Legitimate	1	0	1	25	7,266
	Illegitimate	0	0	0	2	966
	Total	1	0	1	27	8,232

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Deaths under 1 year per 1,000 live births	27	18	18
Deaths of legitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 legitimate births	28	18	17
Deaths of illegitimate infants under 1 year per 1,000 illegitimate live births	0	19	25
<u>NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>			
Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 live births	14	13	12
<u>EARLY NEO NATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>			
Deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births	14	13	10
<u>PERINATAL MORTALITY RATE</u>			
Still births & deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births	27	27	23





MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths resulting from childbirth or pregnancy in 1969.

DEATHS

There were 83 deaths in Ammanford in 1969, compared with 84 the previous year. Of the 83, 20 occurred between the ages of 65 and 74, and 36 at the age of 75 or over.

	Male	Female	Total	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
All Ages	46	37	83	2,450	579,463

Death Rates, etc. All Ages

	Ammanford	Carmarthenshire	England and Wales
Deaths per 1,000 home population (crude rate)	14.0	15.0	11.9
Area comparability factor	.96	.99	1.00
Local adjusted rate	13.4	14.9	11.9
Ratio of local adjusted rate to national rate	1.13	1.25	1.00





CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1969

ALL AGES

	Male	Female	Total
Tuberculosis	0	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm - Buccal Cavity	0	1	1
" " - Stomach	1	1	2
" " - Intestine	2	2	4
" " - Lung Bronchus	1	1	2
Other Malignant Neoplasms	1	3	4
Diabetes Melletus	1	2	3
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases	0	1	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	0	2	2
Hypertensive Disease	1	2	3
Ischaemic Heart Disease	16	8	24
Other forms of Heart Disease	2	1	3
Cerebro-Vascular Disease	3	5	8
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	1	2	3
Pneumonia	0	1	1
Bronchitis and Emphysema	10	0	10
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	2	1	3
Peptic Ulcer	0	1	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	1	0	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	1	0	1
Other Diseases Genito-Urinary System	1	0	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	0	1	1
Congenital Anomalies	1	0	1
All other accidents	1	0	1
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	0	1	1
Total All Causes	46	37	83

Of the total, 43 deaths, that is 51% were caused by diseases of the Cardio Vascular System.

There were 24 deaths due to Ischaemic Heart Disease compared with 19 the previous year. 28.9% of all deaths were due to this ailment.

Pneumoconiosis was implicated in three deaths and Tuberculosis in one case. Two cases of malignancy of the bronchus occurred.

Deaths due to carcinoma of the lungs are rising annually in Britain, and in 9 out of every 10 such deaths cigarette smoking is believed to be responsible. No effort should be spared therefore in attempting to persuade the public to abandon this lethal habit.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

During 1969, one case of Measles and one case of Infective Hepatitis were notified.

FOOD POISONING

There were no cases of Food Poisoning.

TUBERCULOSIS

Two new cases of Respiratory Tuberculosis occurred - both adults.

IMMUNISATION

The following table refers to the County of Carmarthenshire. The separate figures for Ammanford are not available.

	PRIMARY						BOOSTERS
	Born 1969	Born 1968	Born 1967	Born 1966	1962- 1965	Others - 16	
Triple Antigen	910	673	155	48	90	21	824
Diphtheria/Tetanus	1	3	6	3	43	15	434
Tetanus	0	2	2	9	48	267	135
Polio (Sabin)	828	631	204	73	156	45	454
Measles	4	64	45	48	13	15	0

Although Diphtheria and Poliomyelitis are now comparatively rare diseases, cases still occur, and every parent should make sure their children are immunised at the appropriate times. It should be appreciated that these illnesses can be contracted whilst on holiday abroad.





Smallpox Vaccination (Whole County)

Age at date of Vaccination	Number Vacc.	Number Re-Vacc.
Under 1 year	110	0
1 year	995	0
2 - 4 years	204	7
5 - 15 years	43	96

In view of the great popularity of International travel, much of it by air - and the consequent risk of contact with cases of small-pox - the general public would be well advised to keep up their immunity to this disease by periodic vaccination.

B.C.G. Vaccination (Whole County)

	Contact Scheme	School Children
No. Skin Tested	186	1,501
No. found negative	150	1,242
No. Vaccinated	119	1,204

VACCINATION AGAINST INFLUENZA

In view of the Influenza Epidemic which started in the last months of 1969 18 Members of the Staff and Workmen of this Council took advantage of the offer to receive a prophylactic injection against the virus.





MASS RADIOGRAPHY

The Mass Radiography Unit visited Ammanford in December, 1969.

Analysis in Age Groups of those  
availing themselves of the Service

	Under 15 yrs.		15 - 24 yrs.		25 - 34 yrs.		35 - 44 yrs.		45 - 59 yrs.		60 and Over		Totals	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Total Number Examined	0	0	42	53	38	27	44	32	93	54	68	48	285	214

No new cases of Tuberculosis were found. There were 8 cases of Post-Primary Tuberculosis, one male and seven females.

No cases of malignant neoplasm were observed.

SERVICES AVAILABLE IN AMMANFORD CLINIC

	DAY	TIME
Orthopaedic Clinic	Every Monday	9 - 12 a.m. 2 - 4 p.m.
Child Health Clinic	Tuesday	2 - 4 p.m.
Asthma Clinic	Thursday	9.30 - 11.30 By Appointment
Cytology Clinic	Alternate Friday Mornings	By Appointment 9.30 - 11.30
Family Planning Clinic	2nd and 4th Thursdays	5 - 7 p.m.
Hearing Assessment Clinic (Children)	By Arrangement	
Chiropody Clinic	Wednesday	4. 30 p.m. By Appointment
Mothercraft & Relaxation Classes	Wednesday	2 - 4 p.m.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare Foods are distributed at the Child Health Clinic on Tuesday afternoons from 2 - 4 p.m.

SECTION 47 NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT 1948

No action was required under this Section which enables persons in need of care and attention to be removed to suitable premises.



FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Factories Act 1961

Part I of the Act

	Premises I	Number or Register 2	Number of		
			Inspections 3	Written Notices 4	Occupiers Prosecuted 5
1	Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	7	7	NIL	NIL
2	Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	30	30	NIL	NIL
3	Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
	Total	37	37	NIL	NIL

Cases in which Defects were found

Particulars  I	Number of Cases in which Defects were Found			Number of cases in which prosec- utions were instituted 6
	Found 2	Remedied 3	Referred To H.M. 4 Inspector By H.M. 5 Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness S1				N I L
Overcrowding S2				
Unreasonable Temperature S3				
Inadequate Ventilation S4				
Ineffective Drainage of Floors S6				
Sanitary Convenience (a) Insufficient (b) Unsuitable or Defective (c) Not separate for sexes				
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)				





PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

There is one Outworker only listed in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c) (2) employed in the making of Knitted Wearing Apparel.

There were no cases of default in sending the list to the Council and no prosecutions.

There was no action taken under Section 134 of the Factories Act 1961.





ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1969

Mr. Chairman, Miss Jones and Gentlemen,

I submit for your information and consideration my report on the Public Health Services which have been included in my duties during the year ending the 31st December, 1969.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply and distribution of the water in the Ammanford Urban District was sufficient in quantity and satisfactory in quality during the year.

All the houses in the area are connected to the Public Water Mains owned by the Loughor Joint Water Board with water taps inside the houses over sinks.

The water has a ph of 7.54 and fluoride content of .072 parts per million.

Organically this water is of excellent quality and contains no unoxidised nitrogenous matter. It is slightly alkaline in reaction and with a hardness of 90 p.p.m. would be classified as moderately soft.

Bacteriologically the water is of satisfactory quality.

The plumbosolvent action checks have shown 0.07 lead (Pb) mgms/litre which is satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION

House Refuse - The House Refuse is collected from all premises twice weekly by means of a side loader refuse lorry. The collection of the House Refuse is a Kerbside Collection. The occupier of the premises provides the refuse bins. A report on the alternative methods of Refuse Collection including the rear loading back compression Vehicles Municipal Bin Provision Scheme and the Paper Sack Collection Scheme was again circulated to the Council but consideration of the report was deferred. A rear loading back compression Refuse Collection Vehicle was ordered to come into use in 1970.

Trade Refuse - The Council have not undertaken to remove Trade Refuse but waste packaging, cardboard and paper is removed from trade premises free of charge on Wednesday of every week and conveyed to Rhydymaerdy Refuse Tip where it is burned.

Disposal of Refuse - The tipping of refuse at the Gelligwaerdy Farm Refuse Tip was discontinued during the year.

One refuse tip at the Rhydymaerdy Site at Pantyffynnon was in use at the end of the year and as the area available for tipping was coming to an end other sites were viewed and application was made by the Surveyor's Department for permission to develop these areas for the tipping of Household Refuse.

Bulk Refuse - There is no organised collection of bulk household refuse but facilities are made available for any person wishing to deposit bulk household refuse on the refuse tip at Pantyffynnon.



## DRAINS SEWERS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Trunk Sewers and Sewage Disposal Works are the responsibility of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board.

The Secondary Sewers with connecting drains are the responsibility of the Council.

Eighty nine blockages occurred in the drainage system in the Ammanford Urban District Area, these blockages were cleared by Council Workmen.

The Total Number of Houses connected					
to the Public Sewer is	...	...	...	...	2,197
The Total Number of Houses which are on					
land which is below the level of the invert					
of the sewer and connected to cesspools and					
septic tanks is	...	...	...		3

## PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS

Number of Complaints ... ..									112
Number of Investigations ... ..									112
Statutory Notices Served									
P.H.A. 1936	Section 93	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	
	Section 39	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	
P.H.A. 1961	Section 26	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
	Section 27	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	

Premises in which defects were remedied:-

As a result of Statutory Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
As a result of Informal Notice	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Work carried out by the Council at the request of the Owner	...	...	...	...	...	...	2

## HOUSING ACTS

Number of House Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	241
Number reported to Committee	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Total Council Owned Housing Units	...	...	...	...	...	...	478

Number of Council Housing Units  
completed in 1969

Houses	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	
O.A.P. Bungalows	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	4

Number of Housing Units under  
construction in 1969

Number becoming vacant during 1969	...	...	...	...	...	11
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## New Tenants Rehoused

Key Workers	5	...	...	...	...	...	
Old Age Pensioners	4	...	...	...	...	...	
Rehoused from Clearance							
Area	2	...	...	...	...	...	
From Housing List	4	...	...	...	...	...	15

Number of applicants for Council  
Housing Units in 1969

... .. 59





Private Houses capable of being Repaired at a Reasonable Cost

Notices served under Section 9 Housing Act 1957 ... ..	8
Work carried out in default of Owner ... ..	2

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Discretionary Improvement Schemes Approved in 1969	14
Schemes for the Provision of Standard Amenities Approved in 1969	<u>6</u>
Total Improvement Schemes Approved in 1969	20
<hr/>	
Discretionary Improvement Schemes Completed in 1969	6
Standard Improvement Schemes completed in 1969	<u>6</u>
Total Number of Houses improved in 1969	<u>12</u>
Total Number of visits to advise and inspect Improvement Grant Schemes	285

Compulsory Provision of Standard Amenities Housing Act 1964 Part II

No action has been taken to bring about compulsory improvements of private houses.

CLEARANCE AREAS SECTION 44

One Clearance Area is operative, the Hall Street Clearance Area 1968. The last tenant of this area was rehoused in December, 1969.

DEMOLITION ORDERS SECTION 16

Notices under Section 16 have been served in respect of Two Houses.

DEMOLITION

One house has been demolished for private development.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

Two complaints were received of excessive noise from road breakers on the Public Highway being used without the use of a muffler. On both occasions the Contractor co-operated and mufflers were fitted to the breakers to reduce the noise.

The existing legislation is ineffective to enforce control of noise by Contractors carrying out work which only lasts a few days on Public Highways.

CLEAN AIR ACT 1956

No complaints were received under the Clean Air Act 1956. The anthracite coal mined in the district is, for all practical purpose, a smokeless fuel. This coal is used by the majority of householders.





### CARAVAN SITES

There is One residential Caravan Site licenced to keep one caravan in the Ammanford Urban District Area.

### SWIMMING BATH AND PADDLING POOL

There are no Swimming Baths in the Ammanford Urban District.

The Paddling Pool in Ammanford Park is used by a large number of children during the hot Summer days. The Pool is emptied and refilled daily by the Park Staff from the water mains of the Town's domestic water supply.

### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The Five Ladies and Six Gentlemens Public Conveniences have been provided in the centre of the Town and on roads leading out of the Town.

No progress has been made in choosing and purchasing a site for the erection of a new Ladies and Gentlemens Public Convenience to replace the Ladies Conveniences rented in the Arcade, and the unsatisfactory Underground Gentlemens Public Conveniences at College Street.

### FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955

#### Food Unfit for Human Consumption

The following food was examined and found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered to be buried in the Council Refuse Tip.

Tinned Meat ... ..	63 lbs 6 ozs.	10 tins
Tinned Fruit ... ..	35 lbs 9 ozs.	39 tins
Tinned Vegetables ... ..	8 lbs 5 ozs.	9 tins
Tinned Fish ... ..	15½ ozs.	2 tins
Tinned Soup ... ..	2 lbs 8 ozs.	4 tins
Packed Frozen Foods ... ..	1,883 packages of assorted frozen foods which were unfit due to the breakdown of the display cabinet.	

### FRESH POULTRY INSPECTION

There are no poultry killing and processing premises within the District.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There is no licenced Slaughterhouse in the Ammanford Urban District Area.

### SLAUGHTERMEN

One Slaughterman's Licence which was granted initially by the Council, was renewed during the year.



FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

The following food premises were regularly inspected:-

	No. of Premises	Inspections
Butcher's Shops	6	22
Grocer and General Provision Shops	21	68
Bakehouses	4	10
Fried Fish Shops	7	20
Licensed Premises	12	25
Catering Premises	16	46

All the above premises conform to the requirements of the above Regulations subject to the personal washing facilities in combined shops and dwellings being part of the domestic facilities of the dwelling.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT ETC.)  
REGULATIONS 1957 AND 1963

Premises used for the sale of prepacked Ice Cream	20
Premises used for the sale of loose Ice Cream	3
Premises used for the manufacture of Ice Cream	2

Samples

Three samples of Ice Cream from the shops selling loose Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Glangwilli, Carmarthen, and each was graded Grade I which is the most satisfactory result as an indication of cleanliness.

SALE OF MILK

Milk is sold in the Ammanford Urban District Area as follows:-

Untreated Milk	4 Distributors
Pasteurised Milk	10 Distributors
Sterilized Milk	2 Distributors and 3 shops
Ultra High Temperature Milk	1 Shop

Samples

Samples of milk purchased and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Glangwilli, Carmarthen, during 1969:-

Untreated Milk	22 Samples
Pasteurised Milk	13 Samples
U.H.T. Milk	2 Samples

Results of Tests

Methylene Blue Reduction Test	35 Samples were submitted 4 Samples failed this test
Phosphatase Test	The 13 Samples submitted were all satisfactory.
Brucella Abortus Ring Test	22 Samples were submitted 1 Sample showed a positive reaction which produced a positive culture.





The Pasteurisation Order was  
withdrawn on the 30th July, 1969.

Colony Count

2 Samples submitted which  
produced Nil results in each case.

RODENT CONTROL

One Rodent Operator is employed. All treatment of occupied premises were carried out after investigation of complaints received. Treatment of the refuse tip, open areas, banks of rivers and streams are carried out periodically.

A Free Rodent Control Service is given to all premises to encourage the maximum co-operation of the Public by reporting all infestations to the Public Health Department.

The poison used is Warfarin, and up to date, dead bodies are found in areas where treatment has been carried out.

The Trunk Sewers are under the control of the Amman Valley Joint Sewerage Board. The manholes and inspection chambers of Secondary Sewers and drains under the control of the Council are treated when evidence of infestation is observed.

Total Number of Properties Subject to Rodent Control	2,679
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Total Number of Properties in which treatment was carried out	Rats 254 Mice <u>2</u>	256
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Total Number of Revisits	Rats 618 Mice <u>6</u>	624
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Yours faithfully,

W. DAVIES,

Public Health Inspector.





